

### **Site Visit Report of Mathru Foundation & Additional Information regarding the Project:**

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I have attended multiple talks given by Ms Malati Holla. She mentioned her NGO, Mathru foundation. So one day I just gave a call and visited the Mathru foundation near Marathahalli Bridge, Bangalore. Mathru foundation is currently running in a rented center inside a residential layout. However, they are planning to move to their own building off Sarjapura Road.

During my visit, I was greeted a 20-year old boy who was learning Tabla and he took me to their main hall. From the hall, I could see dorm-type rooms with bunker beds. The hall is quite spacious and towards the end, there is small kitchen. There were tables and few computers. The atmosphere was very homely and the lady caretaker was serving them snacks. I also joined them. I talked to caretaker and the children. There are around 20 boys in the age group 12-20. I asked them their names, where they are studying and where they are from etc. Most of them are from Karnataka but rural areas. Some of them are looking for jobs. They have a vehicle of their own and the person who takes them to schools/colleges, carry them to the classroom as well. All kids are differently abled and there are special trainings given as well. The older boys are conversant in English. They were very enthusiastic about their next step in life- getting a job. All of them go to local government schools and colleges within 2-3 km radius. Most of the kids have polio or related physical disabilities.

I left after more than one hours of interaction. Malati-ji could not meet me that day as she was suffering from typhoid. I against saw these boys during Vibha 10K run and they participated in wheelchair race.

### **Additional Information:**

Malati Holla is a powerhouse of energy. First time, I attended her talk in 2013 Inclusion Summit. Her last years talk in IIC: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hgNKcY6q8fk>

More details about her and the NGO she built for differently abled children:

<http://www.adifferentspirit.com/about-malathi.html>

<http://www.mathrufoundation.org/>

<http://maganiva.com/dev/mathrufoundation/our-children.php>